

### REMARKS

The Applicants' representative thanks Examiner Gray for the courtesy of the personal interview that took place in her office on June 17, 2004. The remarks set forth herein reflect the positions advanced by the Applicants' representative.

Independent claim 1 stands rejected as being obvious over various references. Specifically, claim 1 stand rejected as being obvious over (a) Onodera and Paque, (b) Watson and Paque, and (c) Matsuo and Paque. Claim 1 has been amended to clarify its scope and emphasize how it is distinct over the prior art.

Originally, claim 1 recited that the blade is "mounted on said guide member for transverse cutting movement therealong." As was discussed at the interview, the Examiner was viewing this language as being broad enough to cover guillotine cutters (i.e., Onodera and Matsuo) or rotary cutters (i.e., Watson) based on their ability to form transverse cuts, irrespective of whether the blade itself moves transversely. To clarify the claim scope, claim 1 has been amended to now recite "said blade being movable transversely along said guide member to enable the blade to sever the stock materials discharged from the master processing assembly by moving transversely to cut the stock materials from lateral edge to the other."

The Applicants submit that this amendment to claim 1 distinguishes from the prior art as applied by the Examiner. Specifically, the guillotine and rotary cutters cited by the Examiner do not have blades that move transversely to perform cutting.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons advanced above, claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over the prior art of record. Likewise, claims 2-8 are submitted to be patentable over the art of record not only based on their dependency from claim 1, but also for the reason that they recite additional patentable features.


The Examiner's objection to claim 6 has been noted and claim 6 has been amended to overcome this objection.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any questions concerning this amendment, or the application in general, she is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number to resolve any issues and facilitate prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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